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APPENDIX H:
EXAMPLES OF COMMENTS RECEIVED ON DRAFT PLAN

sent letter 7/21/94

Salt Lake City
July 12, 1994

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WEIR FARM NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE
SUMMARY OF DRAFT GENERAL MANAGEMENT PLAN

What's Your Opinion? We would like to know which aspects of each alternative you favor or dislike.

Do you have comments on Alternative 1: Reuniting the Historic Landscape with the Art it Inspired? Without a moment's hesitation, I much prefer Alternative #1, because it exactly fulfills what I envision in a National Historic Site with "art" as a background. Although I cannot contribute, I hope you have a good fund-raiser, so that you can purchase more of Weir's paintings. As I have heard the story, which may well be exaggerated, I think it is an outrage that so many of Weir's & Young's works were disposed of as they were. I look forward to seeing some of them, if & when they are put on display in Brigham Young University's new art museum. Yours Truly
Margery W. Telfair

Do you have comments on Alternative 2: Presenting Weir Farm as a "Work of Art"? As I have heard the story, which may well be exaggerated, I think it is an outrage that so many of Weir's & Young's works were disposed of as they were. I look forward to seeing some of them, if & when they are put on display in Brigham Young University's new art museum. Yours Truly
Margery W. Telfair

Do you have comments on Alternative 3: Protecting a Cultural Resource? As I have heard the story, which may well be exaggerated, I think it is an outrage that so many of Weir's & Young's works were disposed of as they were. I look forward to seeing some of them, if & when they are put on display in Brigham Young University's new art museum. Yours Truly
Margery W. Telfair

LATE 9/16/94

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WEIR FARM NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE
SUMMARY OF DRAFT GENERAL MANAGEMENT PLAN

What's Your Opinion? We would like to know which aspects of each alternative you favor or dislike.

Do you have comments on Alternative 1: Reuniting the Historic Landscape with the Art it Inspired? AS AN ACTIVE WATERCOLOR ARTIST AND NATIONAL TRUST MEMBER I AM IN FAVOR OF ALT. #1. THE ARTIST IN RESIDENCY PROGRAM CAN ACT AS A LINK BETWEEN PAST HISTORICAL ARTWORK PRESENT EFFORTS AND FUTURE POSSIBILITIES. ON SITE HOUSING / STUDIO SPACE ALLOWS THE ARTIST TO FULLY EXPERIENCE THE SITE AND SHARE THIS WITH THE PUBLIC. PERHAPS WEEKEND OR WEEK LONG RESIDENCY SHOULD BE CONSIDERED FOR ARTIST LIKE MYSELF WHO RELY ON A DAY JOB TO MAKE ENDS MEET? I LOOK FORWARD TO THE OPPORTUNITY TO PAINT WATERCOLORS ON SITE AND APPRECIATE YOUR EFFORTS FOR WHICHEVER ALTERNATIVE YOU EMPLOY - GOOD LUCK.

Do you have comments on Alternative 3: Protecting a Cultural Resource?

CHRISTOPHER P. CAWIE
534 4TH ST NE
WASHINGTON DC 20002
202 - 544 - 7419

WEIR FARM

② PLEASE FORWARD ANY FUTURE DRAFTS OF THE PLAN FORTHCOMING. THANK YOU. KEE

WEIR FARM NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE SUMMARY OF DRAFT GENERAL MANAGEMENT PLAN

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What's Your Opinion? We would like to know which aspects of each alternative you favor or dislike.

Do you have comments
on Alternative 1:
Reuniting the Historic
Landscape with the Art
it Inspired?

THE PLAN IS AMBITIOUS, BUT TOO MANIPULATIVE OF THE SITE. ITS AIME TO PRESERVE HISTORY, HOWEVER, THERE'S SOMETHING TO BE SAID FOR INTERPRETATION. AS AN ARTIST, I FEEL THE SITE IS BEST PRESERVED WITH NATURALISM IN THE FOREFRONT AND HISTORICAL COMMERCIALISM IN THE BACKGROUND.

Do you have comments
on Alternative 2:
Presenting Weir Farm
as a "Work of Art?"

THE PLAN NICELY CENTERS ON THE SITE'S INTERPRETIVE, ARTISTIC NATURE — EVER GROWING & CHANGING LIKE HISTORY ITSELF. IN KEEPING WITH THAT THOUGHT, THE EXISTING BUILDINGS SHOULD BE USED FOR PARK RANGERS RESIDENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE FACILITIES, ALONG WITH A REBUILDING OF THE WAGON SHED FOR MAINTENANCE FACILITIES. WITH CONCERN TO THE SHUTTLE, EMPLOY (2) PERSONS TO BE IN CHARGE OF TRAFFIC FLOW. LAST POINT —

Do you have comments
on Alternative 3:
Protecting a Cultural
Resource?

THIS PLAN'S BUDGET IS TOO EXPENSIVE — HOW ABOUT \$1 MILLION INSTEAD OF \$2M? THE PLAN IS APPEALING IN ITS NON SENSE APPROACH, IN THAT ITS MODEST ATTITUDE WILL CONTROL COMMERCIALIZATION AND OVER DEVELOPMENT OF THE SITE. HOWEVER, THE PLAN NEEDS MORE ATTENTION TO RESTORATION + PRESERVATION. — ITS NEEDS A MORE REALISTIC VIEW AND FORESIGHT ON THE PUBLIC'S + PARKS IMPACT ON THE SITE.

6/29/94

WEIR FARM NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE SUMMARY OF DRAFT GENERAL MANAGEMENT PLAN

What's Your Opinion? We would like to know which aspects of each alternative you favor or dislike.

Do you have comments
on Alternative 1:
Reuniting the Historic
Landscape with the Art
it Inspired?

Restoring building interiors to 1940 seems expedient but unsuitable.

Do you have comments
on Alternative 2:
Presenting Weir Farm
as a "Work of Art?"

This seems better choice in terms of need's be preservation of historical process.

Do you have comments
on Alternative 3:
Protecting a Cultural
Resource?

Better than Alternative 1.

APPENDIX H: EXAMPLES OF COMMENTS RECEIVED ON DRAFT PLAN

WEIR FARM NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE SUMMARY OF DRAFT GENERAL MANAGEMENT PLAN

What's Your Opinion? We would like to know which aspects of each alternative you favor or dislike.

- Do you have comments on Alternative 1: Reuniting the Historic Landscape with the Art it Inspired?
- All NPS sites should be self supporting through admission and parking fees, ranger-led tours and lectures. Concessionaires must pay their fair share. Golden eagle passports should allow entrance by the purchaser, not their spouse, relatives and everyone in the car. They should be mandatory for access to any large national park. Fees collected should be returned to each particular site for maintenance, expansion and addition of more money-making services.
- Do you have comments on Alternative 2: Presenting Weir Farm as a "Work of Art?"
- When Kyllik can charge \$18 for a tour, what is Weir Farm to do - charge \$1.00, keep it's rangers on food stamps, shorten hours, close seasonally and house inspiring artists for free. Until the NPS restructures it's fee schedules, and until the public begins to monetarily support it's greatest asset, the parks will continue to tread water while their best employees find work in the private sector. Good luck in your desire to get any number of million dollars. I continue to wait for Grant NPS to get a parking lot so we can visit one weekend. Timpanogos Cave was shut down last year during our visit per lack of funds. I will be thrilled just to find Weir Farm open with a well paid enthusiastic ranger on hand to show me a couple of paintings. Do what you can but charge what you should. If it was worth saving, it is worth something from my wallet to keep it open.
- Do you have comments on Alternative 3: Protecting a Cultural Resource?

~~Comments to weir farm are the excellent brochure~~

WEIR FARM NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE SUMMARY OF DRAFT GENERAL MANAGEMENT PLAN

What's Your Opinion? We would like to know which aspects of each alternative you favor or dislike.

- Do you have comments on Alternative 1: Reuniting the Historic Landscape with the Art it Inspired?
- much too ambitious
- Do you have comments on Alternative 2: Presenting Weir Farm as a "Work of Art?"
- Too ambitious
- Do you have comments on Alternative 3: Protecting a Cultural Resource?
- Do a bang up job of maintenance of present set up with any funds available

WEIR FARM

WEIR FARM NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE SUMMARY OF DRAFT GENERAL MANAGEMENT PLAN

7/11/94

What's Your Opinion? We would like to know which aspects of each alternative you favor or dislike.

Do you have comments
on Alternative 1:
Reuniting the Historic
Landscape with the Art
it Inspired?

Do not approve of the artist-in-resident program envisioned by NPS. As a practicing artist, I would like to come to paint for a day and return if necessary to finish a canvas. I like the feature of limited parking for 25 cars near the visitor center.

Do you have comments
on Alternative 2:
Presenting Weir Farm
as a "Work of Art?"

Do not approve of having shuttle buses transporting visitors from a site 3 miles from the farm. NPS does this on Cape Cod at Mount Barnet and the arrangement is time consuming and unpleasant for the visitor. For an out-of-the-way spot such as Weir Farm the only heavy traffic would be ~~hundreds~~ ^{even schools} of students from area schools.

Do you have comments
on Alternative 3:
Protecting a Cultural
Resource?

I favor Alternative 3. The on-site parking for limited private cars plus buses for school children will be about right. There ought to be a hot line that an artist can call to learn if a particular day is going to be a busy one with visiting school children. Peace and quiet are definitely to paint a bucolic landscape such as Weir Farm provides.

received 6/21/94

P.S. You didn't have to use a

WEIR FARM NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE SUMMARY OF DRAFT GENERAL MANAGEMENT PLAN

29 stamps! Use
19 & card

What's Your Opinion? We would like to know which aspects of each alternative you favor or dislike.

Do you have comments
on Alternative 1:
Reuniting the Historic
Landscape with the Art
it Inspired?

Too much in scope & \$

Do you have comments
on Alternative 2:
Presenting Weir Farm
as a "Work of Art?"

Too much in scope & \$

6/18/94

Do you have comments
on Alternative 3:
Protecting a Cultural
Resource?

manage minimally = save \$ for U.S. Park Serv. & tax payer. Keep simple so that visitors can enjoy a peaceful rural area, have fund drive to raise money for additional land. maybe owner give easement?

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APPENDIX H:
EXAMPLES OF COMMENTS RECEIVED ON DRAFT PLAN

6/30/74

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WEIR FARM NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE
SUMMARY OF DRAFT GENERAL MANAGEMENT PLAN

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What's Your Opinion? We would like to know which aspects of each alternative you favor or dislike.

Do you have comments
on Alternative 1:
Reuniting the Historic
Landscape with the Art
it Inspired?

Too much improvement and infrastructure changes which will
adversely affect the quality of life of Ridgefield residents.

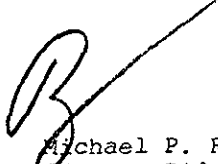
Do you have comments
on Alternative 2:
Presenting Weir Farm
as a "Work of Art?"

Same as above

Do you have comments
on Alternative 3:
Protecting a Cultural
Resource?

Of the three options, this appears to be the least disruptive
to the community. Although Weir Farm is a potential asset
to the community, the opportunity to make it a liability is
greater. The preservation of Weir Farm should be the objective.
In an effort to expand the objectives, many of the quality of
life opportunities in the Ridgefield community will be destroyed.
The improvement of Weir Farm should not be to the detriment of
the town. The potential lack of sensitivity of Federal
Government efforts is always a fear of the community.

I would like to see a low profil effort with art exhibits and
art education.


Michael P. Ryer.
55 East Ridge
Ridgefield

WEIR FARM

WEIR FARM NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE
SUMMARY OF DRAFT GENERAL MANAGEMENT PLAN

What's Your Opinion? We would like to know which aspects of each alternative you favor or dislike.

Do you have comments
on Alternative 1:
Reuniting the Historic
Landscape with the Art
it Inspired?

*I do not like any of the alternatives.
The site should be preserved and be
accessible for interested visitors, but no*

Do you have comments
on Alternative 2:
Presenting Weir Farm
as a "Work of Art?"

*Special programs should be promoted.
Nod Hill Rd is busy as it is and I
don't want additional parking and/or
busses.*

Do you have comments
on Alternative 3:
Protecting a Cultural
Resource?

Aug 7-31-94



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

CONNECTICUT HISTORICAL COMMISSION

July 27, 1994

Ms. Marie Rust
Regional Director
National Park Service
15 State Street
Boston, MA 02109-3672

Subject: Weir Farm National Historic Site
Ridgefield and Wilton, CT

Dear Ms. Rust:

The State Historic Preservation Office has reviewed the draft General Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement prepared by the National Park Service regarding the above-named property. In the opinion of the State Historic Preservation Office, the draft plan is consistent with the programmatic memorandum of agreement ratified by the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, the National Park Service, and the National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers.

This office strongly supports and endorses alternative 1 as the preferred management and development plan for this important historic site. Alternative 1 most effectively and efficiently addresses both Section 106 and programmatic memorandum of agreement historic preservation requirements.

We look forward to a long-term partnership with the National Park Service regarding the continued preservation and public interpretation of the Weir Farm National Historic Site.

For further information please contact Dr. David A. Poirier, Staff Archaeologist.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Dawn Maddox".

Dawn Maddox
Deputy State Historic
Preservation Officer

DAP

TEL: (203) 566-3005

59 SOUTH PROSPECT ST. — HARTFORD, CONN. 06106

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION I

J.F. KENNEDY FEDERAL BUILDING, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02203-2211

AUG 08 1994

Sarah Olson, Superintendent
Weir Farm National Historic Site
735 Nod Hill Road
Wilton, CT 06897

re: Draft Environmental Impact Statement - Weir Farm National
Historic Site, General Management Plan

Dear Ms. Olson:

The Environmental Protection Agency, New England Region, in accordance with our responsibilities under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and Section 309 of the Clean Air Act has reviewed the draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Weir Farm National Historic Site, General Management Plan.

Based on our review, we find that the draft Environmental Impact Statement adequately addresses the issues within our jurisdiction and areas of expertise. We support the commitment by the National Park Service (NPS) in the General Management Plan to avoid adverse impacts to wetlands, to protect groundwater and surface water quality by replacing or improving existing septic systems, and the NPS objective of promoting visitor use of public transportation to the Weir Farm National Historic Site. Therefore, we have rated this project "Lack of Objections - Adequate" (LO-1). Please see the attached rating sheet for a full explanation of this rating.

Thank you for the opportunity to review this draft Environmental Impact Statement. Please contact Steven John of EPA's Environmental Review Program (617/565-3426) if you have any questions about our comments.

Sincerely,

John P. DeVillars
Regional Administrator





STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL
BUREAU OF PARKS AND RECREATION

June 21, 1994

Ms. Sarah Olson, Superintendent
Weir Farm National Historic Site
735 Nod Hill Road
Wilton, CT 06897

Dear Sarah:

Thanks for the opportunity to review the Weir Farm Summary Management Plan/EIS. I concur with the N.P.S. Planning team that Alternative 1 is the most desirable option, although the State DEP with its serious budgetary limitations would have had to settle for a scaled-back Alternative 3 at best! Our main concern is with the protection of the physical site itself and therefore we are pleased to see that no new structures are recommended within this small, fragile property. I might add my prediction that the proposed administration/maintenance building on Weir Farm Lane with Alternative 2 probably would not be acceptable to the neighbors.

Where to locate the proposed visitor center/administration and maintenance complex is of course your problem and one requiring a balancing of preferred proximity, availability, size, physical character, political and zoning acceptability, and ready vehicular access. At one end of the spectrum, an adjacent property meeting satisfying most of these issues may not be available and at the other end Branchville may be too far removed (although potentially ideal from parking, vehicular access and zoning standpoints). Perhaps something along Old Branchville Road near the Junction of Nod Hill Road should be considered, as the proposed construction of new Route 7 in this vicinity may encourage some property owners to consider selling and relocating.

I'd be interested in your reaction.

Sincerely,

Joseph Hickey
State Park Planner

JH/sde

cc: file

WEIR FARM

PROVIDES US A
RARE OPPORTUNITY TO
COMMEMORATE THE
QUIET MARRIAGE
OF ART AND
TENDED LANDSCAPE
THAT SO CLEARLY
DEFINED THE AMERICAN
IMPRESSIONIST
MOVEMENT.
BY HONORING
THE VISION OF
J. ALDEN WEIR
AND THE LAND THAT HE
LOVED SO WELL,
WE COMMEMORATE
SOME OF OUR OWN
BEST INSTINCTS TOWARD
THE NATURAL WORLD.

—Senator Joseph Lieberman



WEIR FARM NATIONAL
HISTORIC SITE
735 NOD HILL ROAD
WILTON, CT 06897

